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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/064,153	06/14/2002	Maryellen Bowman	BOW/01	5098
23699	7590	03/08/2005	EXAMINER	
CLAUSEN MILLER, P.C			HWANG, VICTOR KENNY	
SUITE 1600				
10S. LASALLE STREET			ART UNIT	
CHICAGO, IL 60603			PAPER NUMBER	
			3764	

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/064,153	Applicant(s) BOWMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Victor K. Hwang	Art Unit 3764	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 September 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 September 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

  
JEROME W. DONNELLY  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

**Attachment(s)**

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|---|--|
| <p>1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</p> <p>2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</p> <p>3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br/>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20020916</u>.</p> | <p>4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br/>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____</p> <p>5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</p> <p>6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> |
|---|--|

**DETAILED ACTION*****Drawings***

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: "2" shown in Figs. 1-3. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Claim Objections***

2. Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities: "said triangle" on line 1 lacks positive antecedent basis and presumably should be changed to --said polygon--.

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Pinard* (FR 2,600,541 A1). *Pinard* discloses an individual weight component 4 comprising an aperture, the aperture located in the center and having a keyed geometric shape (hexagonal); and a geometric shape to prevent unwanted rotation when the individual weight component is placed on a flat planar surface. The geometric shape is a polygon in the form of an equilateral triangle.

5. Claims 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Ionel* (US Pat. 4,076,236). *Ionel* discloses an individual weight component 5 having a front side and a back side and a passive interlocking means whereby when the weight components are placed adjacently, each individual weight component passively interlocks with an adjacent individual weight component. The passive interlocking means comprises a convex, protruding geometric shape on the back side and a corresponding concave, receiving geometric shape on the front side. The geometric shape has a conical shape.

*Allowable Subject Matter*

6. Claims 1-8 are allowed.

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of record does not disclose the keyed protrusion member having a hollowed portion with a ratchet mechanism, the keyed protrusion member received by an aperture in an individual weight component, and a quick-release handle pivotally mounted within the receiving end. *Hettick et al.* (US Pat. 4,529,198) discloses a ratchet mechanism 26 and pivotally mounted quick-release handle 24, but lacks a keyed protrusion member with a hollowed portion. *Chen* (US Pat. 6,656,093) discloses a keyed protrusion member 31 with a hollow portion 36 to which a ratchet-type mechanism 45 is attached, but lacks a pivotally mounted quick-release handle. *Chen* (US Pat. 6,500,101 B1) discloses a ratchet (col. 2, lines 45-50) and pivotally mounted quick-release handle 55, but lacks a hollowed, keyed protrusion member.

*Conclusion*

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

*Smith* (US Pat. 353,089) and *Calvert* (US Pat. 1,316,683) disclose weight components with passive interlocking means comprising protruding, conical geometric shapes.

*Hettick, Jr.* (US Pat. 4,529,198), *Chen* (US Pat. 6,500,101 B1) and *Chen* (US Pat. 6,656,093 B2) disclose weight lifting bars with ratchet-type mechanisms.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor K. Hwang whose telephone number is (571) 272-4976. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM Eastern time.

The facsimile number for submitting papers directly to the examiner for informal correspondence is (571) 273-4976. The facsimile number for submitting all formal correspondence at this time is (703) 872-9306.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory L. Huson can be reached on (571) 272-4887.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Victor K. Hwang  
March 5, 2005

JEROME W. DONNELLY  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

